From: Alan F Larimer Jr
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:04am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Those Reading:

I am very concerned with the proposed settlement. Microsoft "donating" computers running M$ software is just furthering the monopoly. It does not properly address the reasons for the anticompetative practices. Address the issue of not releasing Application Program Interface (API) information.

Issue one: Donation of computers. If M$ wishes to donate computers to the school systems, let them donate the hardware. DO NOT let them place their software on it. That would just be expanding their control anticompetively. Allow an alternative software company (such as Red Hat, Mandrake, SuSe, etc.) to provide the Operating System. This would encourage young students to look into alternatives. This would also allow more hardware to be purchased by M$ since they would not be paying for the software.

Issue two: API release. In order for other software companies to develop software for use with M$ Operating Systems, the API must be released so that these companies can provide stable and reliable applications. This is maybe the cornerstone of the illegal practice in which M$ partakes. Releasing the APIs would not only assist other companies in making good, but could also help M$ to promote the vast resources available with their products.
Allowing M$ to place its software on the computer without the option for other companies to provide software would be furthering the anticompetative practices. Forcing them to release APIs now and in the future would take a great bite out of the nature of there illegality. Don't allow M$ to continue such practices. Stop them now.

--Alan

Alan F Larimer Jr
  Personal Web Site
  See what my day is like
  AwFuL, Jr. Productions

Build a man a fire, he will be warm for a day;
Set a man on fire, he will be warm for the rest of his life.

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